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2-11-1942

### Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [February 11, 1942]

Virginia Brainard

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#### Recommended Citation

Brainard, Virginia, "Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [February 11, 1942]" (1942).  
*Dudley Brainard Family Letters*. 55.  
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/brainard-letters/55>

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Wed., Feb. 11, 1942

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Sorry to be so long but I'm busier than I've ever been in my life and don't even have time for letters home! - every once in awhile things get piled up and then I have to drop everything else and work to keep from being snowed under. I haven't had time to do any washing or ironing but more than a week. But I love it. There just aren't enough hours in the day.

Last week we started a new feature in the Student - page 2 - a whole page of M.O. news and I help Dick Roberts edit it. I just love it!! We work over in the news room at WOI and take the news <sup>select what we want to use</sup> as it comes off the teletype, edit it, cut it down, make up our page and write headlines. That's the sort of journalism I adore. Working over at WOI we see a lot of confidential dispatches that aren't for publication - instructions to the news editors about placing too much emphasis on the optimistic side of the news - which sounds ominous.

It also means that I follow in Al Mitchell's footsteps day in and out - ~~and~~



at the desk he used, use books ~~and~~ with  
his name all over them, do the same things  
he used to do. But it doesn't get me down the  
way it used to. I get so darn busy I can't see  
straight. Dick and I go to work at 5 p.m. -  
work until 6 - go to dinner - come right  
back at 7 & work until 8-8:30. Part of the  
work is done at the Student so that  
means I'm over there every single night  
now - five nights of the week - it's gotten  
in to my blood - I can no more stay  
away from there than ~~I can~~ a moth  
can resist a flame. I'm being groomed  
for a night editorship now and should  
go on the desk the beginning of next month.  
So one night each week from then on  
I'll be working over there ~~every night~~  
anywhere from 12 midnight to 3-4 a.m.  
But I get paid \$1.25 for each of those  
nights and that's the highest paid job  
on the staff as far as hourly wages go.  
Next quarter I'll ~~have~~ schedule as free  
8:00 classes as possible.

I've got me a new formal! Yee, and it  
cost only \$2.50! I bought 2  $\frac{7}{8}$  yards of black  
lace and am putting it over my rose



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formal. It looks just ~~so~~ beautiful.  
The lace covers the top and about  $\frac{3}{4}$   
of the skirt and is tacked onto the skirt.  
I can't explain it but it's real cute!

So I don't ~~too~~ need a new formal and  
we'll forget it. It breaks my heart to  
spend so much on one dress and I'm  
glad we didn't. Thanks so much for  
being willing to send me the money but  
I don't need it ~~now~~ or want it and I'm  
glad I can't save it.

Oh, golly, thanks so much for the  
money for the dorm dance. It was one  
of the most wonderful dances I've ever  
been too - music never better and everyone  
was in a good mood. We double-dated  
with Ray, my room mate, and her  
millionaire fiance from ~~Marion~~ Marion  
City. Sunday he took the four of us -  
he, Ray, Howard & me out to dinner  
at the hotel. But next Sat. is our big  
night - The Engineer's Ball and we're  
double dating with Ray & Roddy again.  
Howard will be knighted ~~as a~~ into



the Order of St. Patrick. I can hardly wait. I guess I'm really living - working hard and playing hard. I don't get any sleep - 1 a.m. every nite - and it's wonderful - I've never felt better.

Mother! Mrs. Hope Spence, of "One Foot in Heaven" is house mother ~~for~~ at the Sigma Kappa house here in Ames!! I kept telling you that all Christmas vacation - she's simply wonderful - just as sweet as she can be. She had quite a time in Hollywood acting as adviser to the picture and attending all the premieres. Hartzell Spence spent a week here last spring but I didn't meet him.

Thanks for all the information on the house and I'm working on it. Will let you know in my next letter.

Don't miss the movie "One Foot in Heaven" if you possibly can help it. It's wonderful."

It's nearly the middle of Feb. so could I please have my allowance? I hate to jump the gun but this journal sneaked up on me - Will write more

P.S. Don't tell ~~Mr.~~

latter - Hicks about the crab Love, Virginia? story - he might think I didn't like them - and will you please send me his address?